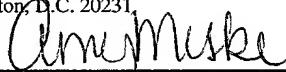


"Express Mail" label number EL683236745US

Date of Deposit December 19, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231



Signature of person mailing paper or fee

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re continuation patent application of:)
Mark W. Bleyer et al.) Before the Examiner
Application No.: New U.S. Continuation)
Application Filed Herewith) Group Art Unit
Filed: December 19, 2001)
)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment for the above-entitled patent application. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 of the Patent Application under the heading "REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" to read as follows:

--The present application is a continuation of Patent Application No. 09/444,881 filed November 22, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application, Serial No. 60/110,407, filed December 1, 1998, each of which is hereby incorporated by
Preliminary Amendment
Inventor: Mark W. Bleyer
Application No.: New U.S. Continuation Application Filed Herewith
Page 1 of 2

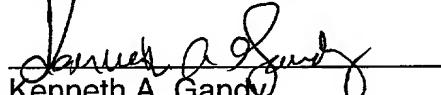
reference in its entirety.--

REMARKS

The present Application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/444,881 filed November 22, 1999 and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. Serial No. 60/110,407 filed December 1, 1998. This Preliminary Amendment amends the specification to reflect this.

Consideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:


Kenneth A. Gandy
Reg. No. 33,386
Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton
Moriarty & McNett
Bank One Center Tower
11 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137
(317) 634-3456